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Medford girl dies at retreat

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A 15-year-old Boston University Academy sophomore died Wednesday night, Sept. 26 while on a school trip to Camp Wing.

Haley Murphy Morrill of Medford was running across a camp field with a friend when she suddenly collapsed.

According to Deb Donohoe, Executive Director of Crossroads for Kids, the organization that runs Camp Wing, the students were taking part in free time after supper when Morrill collapsed suddenly. She got up and seemed OK when she collapsed a second time. Counselors rushed to her aid and immediately assessed that emergency help was needed. One counselor called 911 as another began administering CPR, she said.

According to Fire Chief Kevin Nord, the Duxbury police department was first on the scene to take over CPR until paramedics arrived. Morrill was transported via ambulance to Jordon Hospital.

Nord commented it was an extremely difficult call. "Two great paramedics did everything imaginable to rescue her," he said. "It has been a tough couple of weeks for several firefighters."

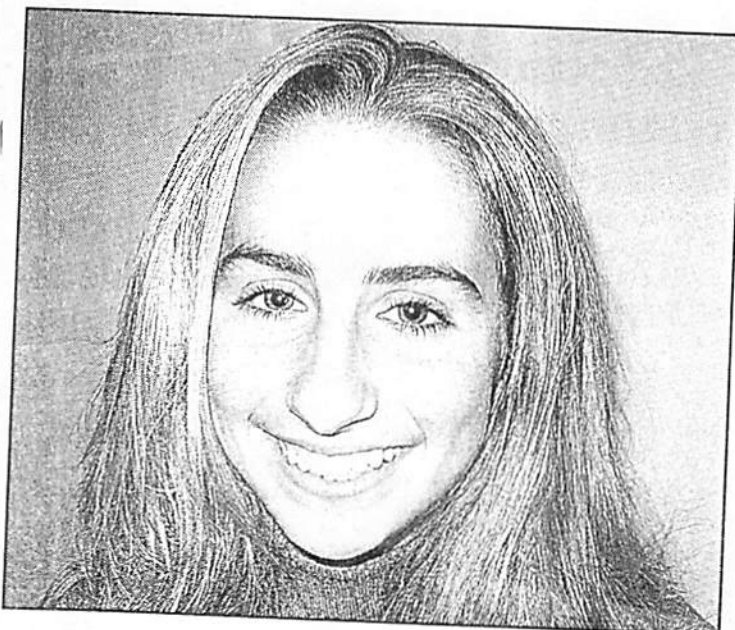
Donohoe was not present at Camp Wing at the time Morrill collapsed, but did go to the hospital that evening. She left the hospital around 9 p.m., when Morrill was to be taken via helicopter to Children's Hospital in Boston, and returned to Camp Wing at about 9:15 to check on the students. Morrill died at Jordan Hospital later that evening.

Approximately 75 students in ninth and 10th grade from B.U. Academy attended the fifth annual three-day retreat at Camp Wing.

The school made arrangements for the students to be picked up the following morning by buses at 9:30 a.m., Donohoe said. It was in the best interest of the students to cancel the remainder of the retreat and return the students to their parents, she explained.

Morrill had been a dancer for more than 12 years and a student at the Boston Ballet for the last four years. Last year she performed in "The Nutcracker" at the Boston Opera House for the second time. She was also a communicant and confirmandant at St. Clement Parish in Medford.

A funeral Mass for Morrill was celebrated Monday, Oct. 1 in St. Clement Church, Medford. She was laid to rest in Oak Grove Cemetery in Medford.



Haley Murphy Morrill

FILE PHOTO

Girl dies at Camp Wing